

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 14, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. BRAGG submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Mrs. Ann E. T. Partridge, widow of Captain Alden Partridge, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:*

The petitioner sets forth in her petition, that her late husband, being an officer in the army of the United States, was appointed superintendent of the West Point Military Academy, at an early and important period in the history of that institution, and that while acting as superintendent, he also discharged the *extra* duties of instructor of military tactics and artillery. That these services were of the most arduous kind, and that they were rendered peculiarly so by the then condition of the country, and the consequent inadequate provision made for the support of the institution; and that, for the extra services performed, her husband received no compensation.

She now asks that such compensation may be made to herself and only son, as Congress may deem to be due for her husband's unrequited labors and personal sacrifices.

It appears that the husband of the petitioner was a lieutenant of engineers, and that as early as the year 1806 he was ordered to West Point to discharge the duties of assistant instructor in mathematics; that in 1808 he was appointed superintendent of the institution, and that he continued to act as such until some time in the year 1817, having, in the meantime, been promoted to a captaincy in his corps.

It further appears, from a memorial addressed to Congress, but which seems never to have been presented by Captain Partridge, and which is filed with the petition in this case, that he claimed for *extra* services as assistant and principal professor of mathematics, assistant deputy quartermaster of the post, and for transportation of baggage, the sum of six hundred and eighteen dollars, (\$618,) and that this claim was submitted to the Secretary of War about the year 1816, who declined to allow the same on the ground that there was no law under and by virtue of which the same could be allowed.

With the exception of some letters, filed also with the petition, referring in general terms to the valuable and important services rendered by Captain Partridge while acting as superintendent, there is no

evidence to establish the facts that the particular services for which *extra* compensation is now claimed were rendered, or if so rendered, that in the then state of the institution they were *extra* services, and might not have been properly required without extra compensation of any officer of the engineer corps occupying the position which had been assigned to Captain Partridge.

The committee, however, entertain no doubt that Captain Partridge rendered very valuable services in organizing the institution, and conducting it safely and successfully through many of its early difficulties. He took charge of it in its infancy, with scarce a dozen young men as cadets. He left it at the end of nine years' service in a high state of prosperity, having brought system and order out of disorder, and laying broadly and firmly the foundations upon which its subsequent usefulness has been built up.

The committee, therefore, would feel justified in recommending to the liberality of Congress the claim of the widow and son of one who they are satisfied rendered very valuable services to the country, and who, perhaps, was but poorly and inadequately requited for them, did they not feel assured that the granting of the prayer of the petitioner would open wide the door for the presentation of innumerable claims of a like character.

They respectfully recommend, therefore, that the prayer of the petitioner be rejected.